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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/000160

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl.⁷ G01N33/53, C07K16/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl.⁷ G01N33/53, C07K16/18

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004
 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

CAS ON-LINE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 2003-503461 A (Reprogen, Inc.), 28 January, 2003 (28.01.03), & WO 01/01998 A & AU 200058376 A & EP 1191942 A & US 6544740 B	1, 7-9
A	Nobuhiro SUZUMORI, Expression of secretory leukocyte protease inhibitor in women with endometriosis, FERTILITY AND STERILITY, Vol. 72, No. 5, pages 857 to 867, 1999	1, 7-9
X	WO 94/12881 A (HOCHSTRASSER), 09 June, 1994 (09.06.94), & AU 9456946 A	2
X	WO 02/22170 A (Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd.), 21 March, 2002 (21.03.02),	2

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

06 February, 2004 (06.02.04)

Date of mailing of the international search report

24 February, 2004 (24.02.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 14

because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

The invention according to the above claim pertains to methods for treatment of the human body by therapy.

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 3 to 6, 10 to 14

because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

(See extra sheet.)

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:

because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Claims 1 and 7 to 11 (invention group 1) relate to methods of examining a disease relating to endometriosis by measuring the content dose of a histamine-release factor and a kit therefor, claims 2 to 6 (invention group 2) relate to an antibody binding to the HRF protein or a part thereof, and claims 12 to 14 (invention group 3) relate to antibodies recognized as usable in a remedy, a therapeutic method and a treatment.

As stated in WO 94/12881 A and WO 02/22170 A, the HRF protein had been known and thus the HRF protein cannot be considered as "a special technical feature".
(continued to extra sheet)

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box No. II-2 of continuation of first sheet(2)

Claims 3 to 6, 10 and 11

Although the invention according to claim 3 relates to an antibody "binding to an epitope different from that of the antibody as claimed in claim 2", the epitope to which the antibody according to claim 2 binds is unclear. Moreover, it is also unclear to what the antibody according to claim 3 binds. Thus, it is unclear what antibodies are involved in the scope of the antibody according to claim 3. The same applies to the inventions according to claims 4 to 6, 10 and 11 depending on claim 3.

Claims 12 to 14

Although the invention according to claim 12 relates to an antibody which is restricted by a function of "neutralizing the activity of the HRF protein", it is unclear what antibodies are involved in the scope thereof. The same applies to the inventions according to claims 13 and 14 depending on claim 12.

Continuation of Box No. III of continuation of first sheet(2)

No common matter is observed between the principle of the examination methods and the principle of the therapeutic method.

Thus, this international application has three groups of inventions.